



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

LEBANESE MAN FACES DEPORTATION FOLLOWING CONVICTION FOR FRAUD AND FALSE IDENTIFICATION

Case highlights significant changes already made to Michigan driver's license procedures

DETROIT – A Lebanese man was sentenced today to time served for mail fraud and possessing false identification, announced U.S. Attorney Craig Morford, Eastern District of Michigan, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Jamil Akil, 25, a citizen of Lebanon, was initially encountered October 2004 at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport by Wayne County Airport Police. Database checks by ICE agents concluded that Akil had no valid immigration status. A search conducted on Akil's possessions uncovered a fraudulently obtained valid Michigan driver's license. He was subsequently arrested and placed in removal proceedings.

The ICE investigation agents revealed that Akil had been smuggled into the United States and illegally procured a Michigan driver's license. In December 2004, Michigan changed its driver's license requirements making it more difficult for illegal aliens to obtain a state driver's license. An individual must now provide at least one document with their name and physical address proving that he/she resides in Michigan. Prior to December 2004, many out-of-state individuals traveled to Michigan for the sole purpose of obtaining a legitimate driver's license. The State of Michigan and ICE have worked closely to shore up this vulnerability to the law.

"The State of Michigan has made it more difficult for organized crime and illegal aliens to exploit our immigration system," said Brian M. Moskowitz, ICE Detroit special agent-in-charge. "The recent changes by the Secretary of State, criminal investigations by ICE and aggressive prosecutions by the U.S. Attorney's Office are important steps in combating criminal activity, including document fraud."

"We are pleased to see this case move forward," Michigan Secretary of State Terry Land said. "Today's action sends a strong signal to those considering use of fraudulent documents to obtain a Michigan driver's license. I applaud the U.S. Attorney's Office and ICE for their work as it will help combat identity theft and protect against threats to the overall safety of our state and nation."

Akil will remain in ICE custody pending his deportation from the U.S. Following his deportation, he will be barred from legally re-entering the U.S. for 10 years.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert Cleland presided over the sentencing. The case prosecution was provided by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Straus.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.